Strength of the Allahabad High Court

898. SHRI K. GOPALAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the sanctioned strength of Judges in Allahabad High Court at present;

(b) what is the present strength of Allahabad High Court;

(c) how many cases are presently pending for disposal before the Court; category-wise figures ;

(d) among them how many cases are more than three, five and ten years old;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Govt.'s consideration to bifurcate the Allahabad High Court in view of its present strength and problems being faced by it in disposing large number of cases; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken by Government to clear pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Allahabad High Court is 60 Judges. At present 49 Judges are in position.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement—I

Pendency of civil and criminal cases for disposal as on 30-6-1986 *in the Allahabad High Court*

Total pendency		Over 3-5-years cases		Over 5-10 years cases		Over 10 years cases	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
225622	62438	57115	117567	55790	12570	11022	213

Statement—II

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendancy

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:—

1. Elimination of arrears in all the courts has been discussed. The conference of Chief Justices Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (*vide* Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 440 as on 1st February, 1987.

5. Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the follow-

ing steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:—

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

(b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Dispensing with printing of records;

(d) Expediting ond giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommenadtions is to be taken by the State Gvernments and the High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The t rms of reference are :—

(a) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by :

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas, the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and pwers in suitable areas and centres;

(iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously eliminating unnecessary litigation delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forums envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii).

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary.

(e) the training of Judicial Officers.

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice.

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings.

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Electronic voting machines

899. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have cleared the proposal for introduction of electronic voting machines for elections in the country; and